

JAMES M. INHOFE  
OKLAHOMA

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
205 RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603  
(202) 224-4721

TULSA OFFICE  
1924 SOUTH UTICA, SUITE 530  
TULSA, OK 74104  
(918) 748-5111

OKLAHOMA CITY OFFICE  
1900 N.W. EXPRESSWAY, SUITE 1210  
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73118  
(405) 608-4381

COMMITTEES:  
ARMED SERVICES  
ENVIRONMENT AND  
PUBLIC WORKS  
FOREIGN RELATIONS

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3603

May 9, 2011

The Honorable Michael Donley  
Secretary of the Air Force  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

General Norton Schwartz  
Air Force Chief of Staff  
1670 Air Force Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20330-1670

Dear Secretary Donley and General Schwartz,

We write to you today about the Air Force's announcement on the preferred location for consolidation of the Introduction to Fighter Fundamentals' (IFF) training units. Based on the information we have seen to date, we question both the savings and efficiency the Air Force has stated this proposed move will achieve. It also goes against the detailed recommendations of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) as well as Congressional intent.

The purpose of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-510), as amended through Fiscal Year 2005 Defense Authorization Act is to provide a fair process that will result in the timely closure and realignment of military installations inside the United States. As part of this act, Congress established a BRAC Commission to provide an objective, non-partisan, and independent review and analysis of the list of military installation recommendations issued by the Department of Defense (DoD).

In its 2005 BRAC Recommendations, DoD recommended relocating IFF training at Moody Air Force Base, GA, to Columbus Air Force Base, MS, Laughlin Air Force Base, TX, Randolph Air Force Base, TX, Sheppard Air Force Base, TX, and Vance Air Force Base, OK. The justification provided in the 2005 BRAC Report states this movement of IFF along with T-6 training at Moody Air Force base "will realign and consolidate USAF's primary phase of undergraduate flight training functions to reduce excess/unused basing capacity to eliminate redundancy, enhance jointness for UNT/Naval Flight Officer (NFO) training, reduce excess capacity, and improve military value...The net present value of the costs and savings to the Department over 20 years is a savings of \$174.2 million."

Recently released information by the Air Force cites a reduction in IFF training, the lack of special-use airspace, an increase flying hours, and higher operating costs as justification to undo the 2005 BRAC. Unfortunately, the information provided to date lacks the fidelity and we question the estimated \$55 million savings from Fiscal Year 2011 to 2018, or eight years, when BRAC estimated over three times the savings in 20 years. The Air Force also cites savings in manpower reductions but we would like savings from other options to include reducing manpower at all IFF locations to meeting

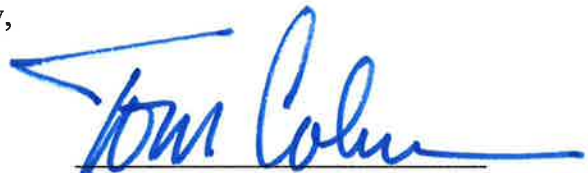
projected IFF student loans. We question the increase in flying hours and cost at Vance Air Force Base over the other bases. One of the main differences between Vance Air Force Base and the other IFF bases is the distance to its bombing range. However, we would like to see the total training time on the range for each of the bases and number of bombing passes accomplished per training sortie for each of the bases. While the bombing range used by Vance Air Force Base is father away (164 miles), the sortie lands at an airfield near the range, refuels, and flies another student training sortie before returning to Vance Air Force Base. Whereas Randolph Air Force Base has to fly approximate 90 miles to and from the bombing range, or 180 miles, on a single sortie. Like BRAC, both savings and efficiency must be factored into any decision to move people and aircraft and that decision must be backed up by a thorough business case analysis. We also need to understand the costs and impact of once again having to send all students graduating from the T-38 track at Vance and Laughlin Air Force Bases TDY for two months to one of the selected IFF bases. Since the IFF course only lasts two months, students have to be housed in hotels and paid daily meal money, rather than being able to find more permanent housing. BRAC eliminated those costs.

We support the Air Force's ongoing efforts to reduce costs and increase efficiency but question the saving and efficiencies to be gained by the proposed IFF moves. We also believe the BRAC Commission's analysis and ultimate decision achieved both cost savings and efficiency and that any changes to BRAC jeopardizes the entire BRAC process. Therefore, we respectfully request the Air Force refrain from implementing any changes until it provides us a detailed business case analysis for the proposed IFF move to include specific cost and efficiency data.

Sincerely,



James Inhofe  
United States Senator



Tom Coburn  
United States Senator



Frank Lucas  
Member of Congress